

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs 16, 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b, 18c, 39a and 39b all of which have been labeled as prior art.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration given to the present application. Claims 1-10, 12-18, and 20-29 are presently pending. Claims 11 and 19 were previously canceled. Claims 7-10, 12-18, and 20-23 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 6-8, 15, 16, and 24 are independent. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended for clarity. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to because the Examiner asserts that figures 16, 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b, 18c, 39a and 39b should be labeled as prior art.

In light of the replacement drawings submitted with this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Uomori, Mori

Claims 1-5 and 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uomori et al. (“Uomori”, U.S. 6,268,880) in view of Mori (“Mori”, U.S. 6,507,358). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 24 recite, *inter alia*, “**a multiplexer for multiplexing the primary image, the thumbnail image and the 3-dimensional control information**”. Uomori discusses time-multiplexing right-eye and left-eye images as consistent with the discussion of prior art in the background section of the Applicant’s specification (*see Figure 16-18, column 19, lines 25-46*).). Though there is discussion in Uomori of obtaining an image signal with a CRT and *viewing a 3D image with polarized glasses (see column 19, lines 3-18)*, Uomori does not discuss multiplexing the primary image, the thumbnail image and the 3-dimensional control information as asserted by the Examiner. Moreover, Mori does not resolve the noted deficiencies of Uomori.

Furthermore, independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “**a 3-dimensional control information creator for creating 3-dimensional control information for implementing 3-dimensional display of the primary image wherein the 3-dimensional control information includes the number of viewpoints, the image placement order, the image placement mode, 2D select, and the presence or absence of joining and reduction**”. Uomori does not teach this feature of claim 24. In fact, the Examiner does not even fully address the elements of the claim, neglecting to find a reference for “number of viewpoints, the image placement order, the image placement mode, 2D select, and the presence or absence of joining and reduction”. In fact, the passage and figures the Examiner points to do not discuss the above elements and instead discuss features of a polyhedron in terms of face number, vertex number, starting and end point, etc. (see Figure 11, column 1, lines 22-57).

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1 and 24 are patentably distinct from Uomori and Mori. Claims 2-5 and 25-28 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claims 1-5 and 24-29 based on Uomori and Mori.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Uomori, Yano

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uomori et al. (“Uomori”, U.S. 6,268,880) in view of Yano et al. (“Yano”, U.S. 7,113,634). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, “**a demultiplexer for separating a primary image data, a thumbnail data and a 3-dimensional control information from an input image data**”. The Examiner relies on Uomori to teach the above-mentioned feature. Uomori, however, discusses 3-dimensional displays in the context of ordinary CRTs (see column 16, line 64-column 17, line 10). In fact, the passage cited by the Office Action to teach the above-mentioned claim features only discusses obtaining an image signal with linear polarizers, a half-

silvered mirror, a pair of glasses formed from a polarizing filter, a viewer, a parallax calculation section, an optimum parallax determination section, a synchronization section, etc. (see column 17, lines 5-10). Though there is discussion in Uomori of obtaining an image signal with a CRT and viewing a 3D image with polarized glasses (see column 19, lines 3-18), there is no discussion of separating image data, thumbnail data, and 3D control information from input data, much less “a demultiplexor for separating a primary image data, a thumbnail data and a 3-dimensional control information from an input image data” as recited in independent claim 6.

Furthermore, independent claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, “**a thumbnail creator for outputting a thumbnail with a symbol that indicates an inclusion of a 3-dimensional image overlaid on the thumbnail data when the primary image data represents a 3-dimensional image**”. The Examiner, on page 6 of the Office Action, admits Uomori does not discuss the above-mentioned claim feature. The Examiner, however, relies on Yano to teach this feature. However, no where in Yano is there even a mention of creation of a thumbnail image. The passage referenced by the Examiner actually discusses assigning pixel values of the subject image (see column 2, lines 9-41). Yano is wholly devoid of “a thumbnail creator for outputting a thumbnail with a symbol that indicates an inclusion of a 3-dimensional image overlaid on the thumbnail data when the primary image data represents a 3-dimensional image” as recited in independent claim 6.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 6 is patentably distinct from Uomori and Yano. Claim 29 is at least allowable by virtue of its dependency on corresponding allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this obviousness rejection of claim 6 based on Uomori and Yano.

CONCLUSION

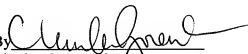
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charu K. Mehta, Reg. No. 62,913, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Drawings